

CHLOE FLOWER

Department of Literatures in English
Bryn Mawr College
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EDUCATION

New York University
Ph.D. Department of English

University of Toronto
M.A. Department of English

University of Toronto
B.A. High Distinction, Department of English

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Bryn Mawr College, 2018-Present

Assistant Professor of Literatures in English
Helen Taft Manning Fund for British History
Affiliate Faculty in Child and Family Studies and Africana Studies

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Childhood Studies; Children's Literature; Transatlantic Studies, Material Culture and Archival Studies; Histories of Affect and the Ethics of Care; History of the Novel

MANUSCRIPT IN PROGRESS

The Evacuated Self: The Evacuated Self will be the first book-length study of the long history of literary representations of child evacuation in Britain during World War II between 1940 and 1980. The book aims to make several critical interventions. The first is the recovery of a feminist literary history of what has (often pejoratively) been termed "middlebrow modernism," specifically popular novels by women writing about child migration for both child and adult audiences during the late 1930s and 1940s, including authors such as Rumer Godden, Richmal Crompton, Noel Streatfeild, Marghanita Laski, and Barbara Noble. Secondly, this project will track how these writers' texts documented in

real time both the abjection and exploitation of displaced urban children as well as the centripetal movement of empire. Texts written for and about children became a ground zero for wrestling with the future of a post-imperial Britain surging with immigrants from Commonwealth nations in the years following Indian Partition and the arrival of the Empire Windrush. Thirdly, the project hypothesizes that historical instances of evacuation and displacement have a lasting imprint on literary form via the formal innovation of phenomenological readerly experiences of “evacuation” in works by John Wyndham, Elizabeth Bowen, and Graham Greene. Finally, the project looks forward thirty years to a generation nostalgically reflecting back on World War II, and traces the relatively rapid process by which the children’s publishing industry became complicit in a historical evacuation of the traumatic legacies of racism and child-exploitation. The post-1970 proliferation of children’s books by writers such as Nina Bawden, Michelle Magorian, and Kit Pearson bolstered the infamous mythology of evacuation during Britain’s “finest hour” that nostalgically excise the murkier realities reflected both in archives and literary texts contemporaneously produced in wartime Britain.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

“Doll’s Houses & Miniature Museums: Rumer Godden’s Salvaged (Literary) Homes,” solicited chapter forthcoming in *Literary Museums at Home*, Brepols (2025)

“The Exemplary Game: Going to War with H.G. Wells’s Toy Soldiers,” Vol. 51 *Children’s Literature* (2023)

“Interior Design: The Doll’s House and the Working-Class Child,” *Victorian Literature and Culture*, Vol. 51.1 (2023)

“Wilful Design: The Sampler in Nineteenth-Century Britain,” *Journal of Victorian Culture*, Vol. 21.3 (Autumn 2016)

BOOK REVIEWS

“Review of *The Education of Things: Mechanical Literacy in British Children’s Literature 1762- 1860* by Elizabeth Massa Hoiem,” *Children’s Literature*, forthcoming 2024

“Review of *British Children’s Literature and Material Culture: Commodities and Consumption 1850-1914* by Jane Suzanne Carroll,” *Victorian Studies*, Vol: 66.1 (2023)

AWARDS

2021 Helen Taft Manning Professorship of British History

- 2019 360 Grant “Children’s Books”
- 2019 Seed Grant for Tri-Co Working Group on Scientific Humanities
- 2018 Bryn Mawr Faculty Grant
- 2018 Postdoctoral Teaching Fellowship, New York University (declined)
- 2016 Provost’s Global Research Initiatives Dissertation Fellowship, New York University
- 2015 Departmental Travel Award, New York University
- 2014 Molberger Fellowship, New York University
- 2014 Buckler Fellowship, New York University
- 2013 Gordon Ray Fellowship, New York University
- 2013 Provost’s Global Research Initiatives Research Fellowship, New York University
- 2012 Dickens Project Participant, University of California Santa Cruz
- 2012 Buckler Fellowship, New York University
- 2012 Dean’s Travel Award, New York University
- 2012 Summer Fellowship, New York University
- 2009 5 Year MacCracken Fellowship, New York University
- 2009 Dean’s Supplementary Fellowship Grant, New York University

INVITED LECTURES AND TALKS

“Digital Humanities and Archival Silence,” Invited Talk, Digital Scholarship Research Institute, Haverford College, December 10, 2019

“Childhood and the Anti-Bildungs,” Invited Talk, Graduate Seminar on Transatlantic Childhoods, New York University, February 26, 2014

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PANELS ORGANIZED

Heathcliff’s Children: Wake Work in *The Lost Child*, North American Victorian Studies Association, Indiana University, November 2023 (Remote Presentation)

Voices Raised, Victorian Transformations Conference, British Association for Victorian Studies, Leeds University, May 2023

“Inverting the Reformer's Gaze in Frances Hodgson Burnett's ‘Racketty Packetty House,’” British Women Writers Conference, Baylor University, Waco, TX, June 2022

“Quaker Faith and Juvenile Delinquency in the Q Camps of Hawkspur Green,” Society for the History of Childhood and Youth Conference, Galway, Ireland, June 2021 (Remote Presentation)

“These Speaking Ruins: Disclosing the Commons in Postwar London,” Children’s Literature Association Conference, June 2021 (Remote Conference)

“H.G. Wells’s Little Wars,” Northeast MLA Conference, Boston, MA, March 2020

Co-organizer of “Material Culture, Labor and Childhood Identities,” guaranteed session MLA 2019 sponsored by the Children’s Literature Association, with Elissa Myers, City University of New York

“H.G. Wells and the Liquid Toy Soldier,” Children’s Literature Association Conference, Texas State University, San Antonio, TX, June 2018

“Octavia Hill and the Ragged Schools,” Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English Conference, Ryerson University, Toronto, ON, May 2017

“A Victorian Dolls’ House in Post-War London: Rumer Godden’s Child Archivists,” Nineteenth Century Studies Association, Charleston, SC, February 2017

“Elizabeth Parker’s Sampler and the Question of Childhood Agency,” Children’s History Society Conference, King’s College London, London UK, June 2016

“The Exemplary Game: Toy Soldiers and H.G. Wells,” Northeast MLA Conference, Hartford, CT, March 2016

“Interior Design: Dolls’ House and Tenement in Octavia Hill’s Essays,” British Women Writers Conference, Columbia University, New York City, NY, June 2015

“Cashmere Shawls and Imperial History in *North and South*,” Nineteenth Century Studies Association Conference, Boston, MA, March 2015

“A Shrill Weird Song: Communication Networks in L.M. Montgomery’s *Rilla of Ingleside*,” L.M. Montgomery Institute Conference, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, PEI, June 2014

“Wilful Design: Sampler as Life-Writing in Victorian Britain,” British Women Writers Conference, Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY, June 2014

“Only a Curl: Hair in *Wuthering Heights*,” Dickens Project Conference, Louisiana State

University, New Orleans, LA, April 2013

“George Eliot’s Oratorical Realism,” South Atlantic MLA Convention, Durham, NC, November 2012

“Vessels of Sensibility: Authorship at Sea in *The Wings of the Dove*,” Pacific MLA Convention, Seattle, WA, October 2012

TEACHING

2024 ENGL B356: Black Britain (Fall)

2024 ENGL B250: Methods of Literary Study (Fall)

2024 ENGL B261: Colonizing Girlhoods: L.M. Montgomery and Laura Ingalls Wilder (Spring)

2022 ENGL B250: Methods of Literary Study (Spring)

2021 ENGL B374: African American Childhoods (Fall)

2021 Emily Balch Seminar: The Urban Gothic (Fall)

2021 ENGL B250: Methods of Literary Study (Spring)

2021 ENGL B315: Reading Childhood Through the Brontës (Spring)

2020 ENGL B261: Colonizing Girlhoods: L.M. Montgomery and Laura Ingalls Wilder (Fall)

2020 Emily Balch Seminar: The Urban Gothic (Fall)

2020 ENGL B374: African American Childhoods (Spring)

2019 ENGL B289: Topics in the Ellery Yale Wood Collection: The Fantastic (Fall)

2019 ENGL B281: Rethinking the Golden Age of Children’s Literature (Fall)

2019 ENGL B327: Childhood in Ruins (Spring)

2018 ENGL B271 Transatlantic Childhoods in the Nineteenth Century, (Fall)

2018 Emily Balch Seminar: Sisterliness, Assistant Professor, Bryn Mawr College (Fall)

2018 English Language Development, Writing Instructor, University of Toronto

- 2017 English Language Development, Writing Instructor, University of Toronto
- 2014 British Literature II, Course Instructor, New York University
- 2014 Representations of Women, Teaching Assistant, New York University
- 2013 British Literature II, Teaching Assistant, New York University
- 2012 Dickens Project, Group Facilitator, University of California Santa Cruz
- 2012 Literature in Wonderland, Teaching Assistant, New York University
- 2011 Antiquity and the Renaissance, Teaching Assistant, New York University

THESES DIRECTED:

2019

Rachel Hertzberg:

Laughing in the Dark: The Split Maternal Figure in *A Wrinkle in Time* and *Harriet the Spy*

Jacqueline Kuo:

Bridge to the Shining World: Imagining Adolescence in Katherine Paterson's *Bridge to Terabithia* and C.S. Lewis's *The Chronicles of Narnia*

Carrie Sauder:

Queer, Innocent, and Heartless: The Temporality of Asexuality in *Peter Pan*

Hannah Symonds:

Possession and Collaboration on the Alpine Path: Female Authorship in L. M. Montgomery's *Emily* Trilogy

2020

Katya Croddy:

Reading the Self: A Critical Analysis of Authorship Through the Lens of Mobility and Trauma in Mary Shelley's Travel Literature

Mia DiMeo:

Collaborating Up the Banister: How *Mary Poppins* Inspires the Adult and Child to Work Together

Elizabeth Hoo:

The Morphing of Identity in Response to Trauma from the Alienation in America in the *Joy Luck Club*

Samantha Grosberger:
Matriarchy Through Marriage: An Exploration of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*

Maria Mitiuriev
Overcoming the Powers of Men and the Market in Christina Rossetti's "Goblin Market"

Emma Regan
"This Wasn't the Monster He Was Expecting": An Exploration of Grief in *A Monster Calls*

2021

Maria Bohan:
Rewriting the Classics: Children's Might, Authorial Authority, and the Wake of Slavery in *The Son of Neptune*

Elicie Edmond:
Coming of Age in Civil Rights America: The Politics of Literary Black Representation in Harper Lee's, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and Angela Thomas's, *The Hate U Give*

Lucy Louis Lee:
A Girl Among the Flowers: Garden Spaces and Children's Novels

Christina Xue:
Childish Dystopias: Enforced Childhoods in *The Giver*

2022

Elinor Berger:
Alice in the Afterlife: Consumption, restriction, and the pedagogical narrative in Christina Rossetti's *Speaking Likenesses* and Anna Matlack Richards' *A New Alice in the Old Wonderland*

Barrett L. Marshall:
Reading *Coraline* as an Anti-Feminist Novella on Motherhood

Genevieve A. Altman:
A Comparative Analysis of Friendship Narratives in School Cinema

Lilyana J. Hilaman:
Creating Meaning Through Objects and Things in *To the Lighthouse*

Rhoda A. Amaaya:
Enabling the West: The roles of the Individual and the State in the Erasure, Diminishing, and Stagnation of African Education, Culture and Progress Through Western Intervention

2024

Xenya Currie
Paradigms of Repression in Middlemarch

Ollie Shane
Between Men and Britain: W. Somerset Maugham, Queerness, and Imperialism

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- Membership Committee, Children's Literature Association 2019-2022

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Honor Board 2024-Present
- Selection Committee Hester Ann Corner Prize 2024
- Asian American Studies Search
- African American Studies Search
- Hannah Holborn Gray Supervisor
- Hiring Committee Member and Interviewer, Film Studies Search, 2021-2022
- Committee on Libraries, Information, and Computing, 2019-2023
- Selection Committee, M. Carey Thomas Prize, 2020

EDITORIAL WORK

2009-2010 Research Assistant to Professor Jacqueline Goldsby, Yale University

Performed archival research at Fales Library, Tamiment Library, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture for the Norton edition of *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*

LANGUAGES

French, proficient in reading, writing, speaking

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Children's Literature Association
Modern Language Association
Society for the History of Childhood and Youth

North American Victorian Studies Association
British Women Writers Association